

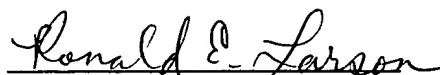
the business method exception to statutory subject matter. In particular it referenced MPEP section 706.03(a) (1994) which advises Examiners that claims should not be categorized as methods of doing business. Instead, such claims should be treated as any other process claims.

Enclosed with this Preliminary Amendment is a copy of the originally filed application retyped using double spacing as requested by the Examiner in the parent application.

It is believed that all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Date: July 21, 1999

Respectfully submitted,


Ronald E. Larson
Reg. No. 24,478
Attorney for Applicant

McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Ltd.
500 W. Madison, 34th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661
312.707.8889

00362636-072499